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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Mule, et al.

Serial No.: 10/734,075 To be assigned (10/135,314 Parent)

Filed: December 11, 2003 (4/29/02 Parent)

Group Art Unit: 2874 (Parent)

Examiner: Phan T.H. Palmer

Docket No. 62004-1851

For: **BACKPLANE, PRINTED WIRING BOARD, AND/OR MULTI-CHIP MODULE-  
LEVEL OPTICAL INTERCONNECT LAYER HAVING EMBEDDED AIR-GAP  
TECHNOLOGIES AND METHODS OF FABRICATION**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In regard to the above-referenced application, the Applicants submit the following preliminary Amendment.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.